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GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Financial DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

11th May 1881, No. 827.

Budget Estimate—Medical.

Read the following paper :—

From Surgeon-General W. R. CORNISH, F.R.C.S., C.I.E., Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 25th March 1881, *No.* 123 [*Current No.* 798].

I have the honor to state, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that, having addressed the Government in the Military Department for adequate office establishment in consequence of the changes recently introduced in the administration of the Medical Department, I have been directed by G.O., No. 1353, dated 7th March 1881, to submit my application to the Financial Department, as the cost of the office of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras is a Provincial charge.

2. By the changes referred to, the administration of the duties in connection with the Indian troops was transferred to the Military Department, and a portion of this office establishment, to the extent indicated in the margin, was ordered likewise to be transferred by G.O., No. 2567, of 26th April 1880.

	Rs.
1 Clerk	70
1 Clerk	40
1 Copyist	17
1 Peon	7
Total ..	134

3. The transfer of clerks was ordered in the belief that, having been relieved of duties pertaining to the Military Department, the work of this office would be proportionately diminished, but in that transition change an important factor had been overlooked which was destined not only to falsify the predictions as to diminution of work, but which has proved to be a fruitful source of disproportionately increasing the work of this office over and above that devolving on it before the separation of the Military and the Civil branches of the Indian Medical Department.

4. The disturbing element is the abolition of Deputy Surgeons-General in the Civil Medical administration, by which this office is brought into direct contact with the large numbers of the executive medical staff dispersed over the whole of Southern India. Where three communications addressed to the Deputy Surgeons-General were sufficient under the former organization, thirty are rendered necessary under the new.

5. I would beg permission to restate the specific grounds of application submitted to the Military Department in my letter, No. 524, of 22nd November 1880. In reference to an inquiry from that department as to whether any further transfer of clerks can be made from this establishment, I wrote as follows :—

* * * "After six months' experience my conviction is that it was a mistake to have made any reduction at all in the first instance, for, so far from the duties having decreased as was expected from the separation of the Military from the Civil duties of the Medical Department, the statement of receipts and despatches exhibited in the margin shows that not only has the expectation not been realised, but that from the very nature of the change in the administration the work of this office has so largely

Seven months, from 1st April to 31st October

	1879.	1880.	Increase.
Receipts	4,966	6,108	1,142
Despatches	4,227	4,984	757

increased that I was about to address Government for an adequate establishment so soon as the Government of India shall settle the question of travelling allowance for myself and my establishment.

(2.) "I beg the attention of Government to the fact that the increase shown in the margin represents the work of this office with a reduced establishment as compared with the work of the office before such reduction, and I trust that it shows with sufficient clearness not only the impossibility of further reduction, but that it also indicates the necessity of at least restoring the establishment to the strength at which it was found when the reduction was effected on the mistaken supposition that the change in the administration would be attended with a proportionate diminution of work.

(3.) "The first and the most fruitful source of increase of work is due to the abolition of Deputy Surgeons-General in the Civil Administration, as must be obvious from the nature of things. In the place of communicating with three administrative officers (Presidency, Mysore, and Southern Districts,) on the civil work of the Medical Department, this office has now to hold direct communication with twenty-one District Surgeons, and the Medical Officers of nine Presidency Hospitals in respect to that same amount of work which before was compressed within the compass of three separate communications; and in like manner the receipts which would have reached this office under the old system from three sources are multiplied sevenfold by the abolition of Deputy Surgeons-General.

(4.) "I must also explain in this connection that matters of medical administration, which were formerly disposed of by local Deputy Surgeons-General, now devolve on this office, and account in some measure for the growth of work under the new system.

(5.) "I will not weary Government with the minute details of the system under which work so far from decreasing has necessarily increased, but will ask permission to mention a single fact which will generally account for the increase in the duties and responsibilities of this office under the change inaugurated on the 1st April last.

(6.) "Under the old system local administrative Medical Officers were charged with the administrative and economic concerns of the numerous Local Fund and Municipal Hospitals, as well as the hospitals maintained with Provincial Funds. Since the abolition of Deputy Surgeons-General this office comes into direct contact with each of these separate numerous institutions, both in respect to their professional management, and in the economic arrangements of such hospitals as spend Government money, such as Police, Jails, &c.; and bills, which were formerly vouched and passed by Deputy Surgeons-General, are now sent here, to the extent of one hundred per mensem, to be dealt with by this office before the Account Department would accept them for disbursement.

(7.) "I will not enter into further details as to statistical and professional returns and departmental rolls of Medical Subordinates which used to reach this office in tabulated and convenient forms from Deputy Surgeons-General, which now arrive in driblets from a hundred sources, and require compilation in this office for departmental use, to accomplish which involves an amount of labor that it is not difficult to understand. The Government were pleased to permit the office allowance drawn by such Deputy Surgeons-General on the Indian side as were abolished to be attached by the existing Deputy Surgeons-General of amalgamated circles, but the larger half (Civil) of the duties of the three Deputy Surgeons-General of the Presidency, Mysore, and Southern Districts has been thrown on this office establishment, and no addition made to it; but on the contrary three clerks and a peon, whose aggregate salary amounted to Rs. 134, were detached and alienated from it.

(8.) "I would also bring to the notice of Government that, under the present organization, I am charged with the duty of inspecting the chief Medical Civil Institutions of this Presidency, and will need the services of one or more clerks on my inspection tours. Each member of my office establishment is in charge of set duties which require his presence, and there are but two ill-paid copyists to overtake all the correspondence of the department. Not one of these clerks can be withdrawn from his legitimate work without throwing the office into arrears and confusion, and I can only account for the growing work of the office having been discharged at all during the last six months with an under-handed establishment by explaining that, as an experimental measure, it has been carried on under high pressure, subject to a representation to Government after gaining some experience.

(9.) "I feel now that the time has come respectfully to represent the matter to Government that the experimental reduction made in April last cannot any longer be sustained, and to request that, on the facts now submitted, His Grace in Council will be pleased to restore to this office the three clerks who were transferred in April last to the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces, or if the particular members cannot be spared, that the amount of their salaries (Rs. 127) be retransferred to this establishment. I shall not ask for the return of the peon as, since April last, the Government were pleased to sanction the addition to this office of the two peons who belonged to the late Office of the Deputy Surgeon-General, Indian Medical Department of the Presidency Circle."

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6. Apart from the increase of work which is directly due to the abolition of uty Surgeons-General, I would solicit the attention of the Right Honorable the vernor in Council to the influence which the Local Fund Act is exerting in progres- ly adding to the duties of every department of this office by the rapidity with ch new dispensaries are being opened up in every taluk. In the year (1870-71) nediately preceding that in which the Act came into operation, the number of Civil pensaries was eighty-five. At the end of 1879 the number had risen to 223, twenty dispensaries having been opened in the course of that year. Each dispensary resents so much work entailed on this office in the way of providing medical staff, sing medical supplies, tabulating returns of sick treated, providing for its inspec- n and supervision, and conducting correspondence generally connected with its inistration. Since 1871, 138 new dispensaries have been opened, but with the position of so much additional work, the establishment of this office has stood still, the salaries unaffected.

7. The solitary statistical clerk, who is principally affected by the increase of pensaries, urgently needs an Assistant. The registering and despatching duties, ich are now relegated to a single individual, need to be separated and each assigned a separate clerk by reason of the largely increased in-coming and out-going patches. At present the receipts of each day are not all seen by me in the course the day, as the clerk in charge is obliged to suspend registering in the afternoon order to attend to the despatches which usually detain him beyond office hours. der this system letters of importance requiring immediate disposal are in danger being unattended to till the following day. There is ample work for two clerks this department, and each would then be able to devote that attention to his special rk which would ensure a correct and systematic discharge of duties in the place of hurry and confusion of the dual system often to the detriment of one or other or th of the sections of this department. The steadily increasing correspondence nts to the absolute necessity of this division of labor. A senior clerk, like the who was alienated from this establishment, is wanted to resume the index in nection with the Record Department interrupted by his transfer to the Military partment, and a copyist is wanted to strengthen the Current Department to its rmal footing before the separation of the two branches of the service. Towards pay of these clerks I ask only for the restoration of the sum (Rs. 127) which in ril last was taken from this establishment.

8. As the inspection of the chief Civil Hospitals in Southern India devolves me under the new organization, the services of at least one travelling clerk to ompany me on my tours become an absolute necessity. I have already shown the er impossibility of withdrawing for this purpose any member of the office ablishment without deranging the whole machinery. I solicit sanction, therefore, a first-class clerk whose qualifications shall be of an order to fit him to undertake gle-handed the multifarious routine duties on a small scale of the correspondence nch of a public office. A clerk with the qualifications desiderated, and whose ties involve the inconveniences of travelling, might fairly expect 50 rupees per nsem, and to this salary I would solicit the sanction of Government.

9. The sum of my recommendations amounts to this—

	Rs.
Towards restoration of the clerks tentatively transferred to the Military Department	127
Towards the new inspection duties required under the new organization	50
Total ..	177

10. As a Despatching Clerk is proposed to be added without extra cost to vernment, I beg to submit the accompanying statement showing a slight redistri- tion of salaries so as to keep within the 127 rupees taken from this office in ril last. The usual augmentation statement is enclosed, and I solicit early sanction, as, if possible, to remove the existing pressure from the commencement of the next icial year.

STATEMENT showing the Office Establishment of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras as it stood before the 1st April 1880, noting the Members who have been transferred to the Office of the Surgeon-General, Her Majesty's Forces.

	Rs.	
One Manager	150	
One Examiner	75	
One Indexer	70	Transferred.
One Budget Clerk	60	
One First-class Statistical Clerk	50	
One Do. do.	40	Transferred.
One Second-class Clerk, Indent Department ..	25	
One Do. in charge of Medical Subordinates' Books	25	
One Copyist	25	
One Do.	18	
One Do.	17	Transferred.
One Registry and Despatching Clerk	20	
One Record-keeper	20	
One Moochee	10½	
Five Peons, at 7 rupees	35	One Transferred.
One Sweeper	3½	
One Toty	5	
Transferred ..	649	
	134	
Since added two Peons ..	515	
	14	
Present Total ..	529	

STATEMENT showing the Office Establishment of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras as proposed in accordance with the tenor of the recommendations contained in letter, No. 524, dated 22nd November 1880.

	Rs.	
One Manager	150	
One Examiner	75	
One Budget Clerk	60	
One Indexer	60	To be restored.
One First-class Statistical Clerk	50	
One First-class Travelling Clerk	50	New appointment.
One Second-class Statistical Clerk	30	To be restored.
One Do. Indent Clerk	25	
One Do. Clerk in charge of Medical Subordinates' Books	25	
One Copyist	25	
One Do.	18	
One Do.	17	To be restored.
One Registry Clerk	20	
One Despatching Clerk	20	New appointment.
One Record-keeper	20	
One Moochee	10½	
Six Peons, at 7 rupees	42	
One Sweeper	3½	
One Toty	5	
Total ..	706	

ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1881, No. 827.

With the foregoing letter the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras applies for an increase to his office establishment.

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2. Under the former organization there was a provision of Rs. 8,948 for "Medical Establishment (Indian)," and the whole of this, with the exception of the pay of four individuals, aggregating Rs. 1,608* yearly, was transferred to the Civil Department to meet the charges connected with the office of the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, whose department was that newly constituted.

	Rs.
* One Clerk	70
One Clerk	40
One Copyist	17
One Peon	7

3. Two Peons on Rs. 7 per mensem, formerly assigned to the Deputy Surgeon-General of the Presidency Division, were also placed at Dr. Cornish's service. The total provision for his establishment was therefore Rs. (7,340 + 168) 7,508.

4. The Government of India assigned Rs. 40,000 for the pay of the Surgeon-General and his Secretary, apparently assuming that this sum was Rs. 400 in excess of the necessary amount. Presidency house-rent had, however, been omitted in the calculations, allowing for which the total charge exceeded the provision by Rs. 80.

	Rs.
Travelling Expenses	160
Contingencies	537
Postage	463
Total ..	1,160

Rs.	
7,508	
— 1,160	
6,348	

5. Deducting the items marginally noted from the provision for the Surgeon-General's office, the balance amounts to Rs. 6,348, which is the total of the column "Present Scale" in the proposition statement appended to Dr. Cornish's letter.

6. The Surgeon-General now requests that he may have an establishment costing Rs. 8,472 (for salaries), the former "Medical Establishment (Indian)," having cost Rs. 7,788 (for salaries) *plus* Rs. 168 the pay of the transferred peons, or Rs. 7,956 in all—a sum less by Rs. 516 than what the Surgeon-General asserts that he requires.

7. The Government do not doubt that the abolition of the Deputy Surgeons-General has thrown much additional work on the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras, but on the other hand he has been relieved of all medical charge of the Native Army, and although a considerable amount of work in connection with it certainly falls on him, there is not sufficient cause shown at present, it appears to His Excellency in Council, for doing more than providing the full establishment once allowed for "Medical Establishment (Indian)," or in other words the same establishment as Surgeon-General George Smith had, *plus* the two transferred peons.

8. The Government of India will therefore be requested to sanction the "retained" provision of Rs. 1,608 as an *additional* charge for the office of the Surgeon-General, *Army* Medical Department.

9. Should experience show that this establishment is inadequate, it may have to be considered whether Local and Municipal Funds should not be called on to bear any additional charge proved to be necessary.

10. The Surgeon-General will submit a proposition statement, revised in accordance with the foregoing remarks, through the Accountant-General, for transmission to the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

R. DAVIDSON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Surgeon-General with the Government of Madras.
" Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor

Govt. of [1881] Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE SURGEON-GENERAL
WITH THE GOVT. OF MADRAS.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 11th.

Issued

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 11*th May* 1881, *No.* 827.

MAY.

Budget Estimate—Medical.—Certain remarks recorded by Government with reference to the Surgeon-General's application for a further increase to his office establishment; and that officer directed to submit a proposition statement prepared in accordance with those remarks through the Accountant-General, for transmission to the Government of India.